

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.**

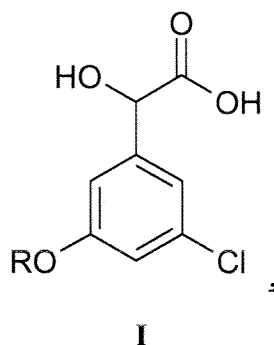
**Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for resolving (*R*)- or (*S*)- optionally substituted mandelic acids from racemic mixtures of said optionally substituted mandelic acids by salt formation with a chiral base-(*D*)- or (*L*)-cyclic amide base, comprising the steps:

(a) forming a mixture in a solvent, or mixture of solvents, of a racemic, optionally substituted, mandelic acid; and a chiral base-(*D*)- or (*L*)-cyclic amide base, wherein the chiral base used is either (*D*)-cyclic amide for separation of (*R*)-mandelic acids, or (*L*)-cyclic amide for separation of (*S*)-mandelic acids, at an acid:base molar ratio of 1:0.25-0.75; and wherein the solvent, or mixture of solvents, may optionally contain water in the range of 5 to 15 % (vol.) of solvent; and

(b) separating the respective (*R*)/(*D*) or (*S*)/(*L*) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt.

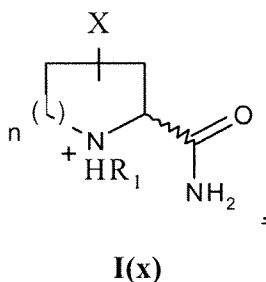
Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The process according A process, according to claim 1, wherein the racemic mixture of the optionally substituted mandelic acid is of formula I for resolving (*R*)- or (*S*)- substituted mandelic acids from racemic mixtures of said substituted mandelic acids by salt formation with a chiral base (*D*) or (*L*) cyclic amide, comprising the steps:~~  
forming a mixture in a solvent, or mixture of solvents, of  
a racemic mandelic acid derivative of formula I;



wherein

R is selected from CHF<sub>2</sub>, H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl~~Alkyl~~, CH<sub>2</sub>F, CHCl<sub>2</sub> and CClF<sub>2</sub>; and

~~the either a chiral base~~-(D)-cyclic amide base or (L)-cyclic amide base is of formula **I(x)**



wherein

**n** is 0, 1 or 2;

**R<sub>1</sub>** is H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl~~Alkyl~~ and

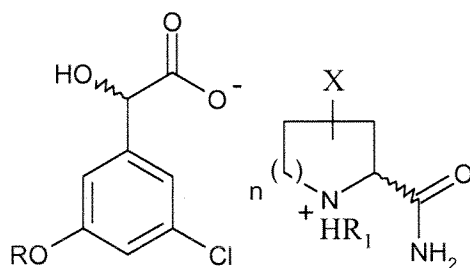
**X** is H, halo or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl~~Alkyl~~,

and wherein

~~the chiral base used is either (D) for separation of (R) mandelic acids, or (L) for separation of (S) mandelic acids;~~

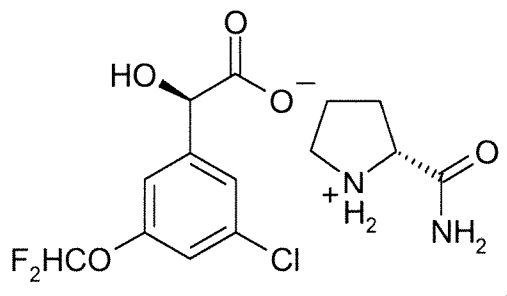
~~at an acid : base molar ratio of 1 : 0.25-0.75; and wherein the solvent, or mixture of solvents, may optionally contain water in the range of 5 to 15 % (vol.) of solvent; and~~

~~—(b) separating the respective (R)/(D) or (S)/(L) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt~~ is of formula  
**IIa** formula **IIa**;



IIa

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The process according to claim 1 or 2,~~  
 wherein the (*R*)/(*D*) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt is of ~~formula VI~~ formula VI;



VI

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The A-process, according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein  
 the solvent ~~used~~ is selected from ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, acetone, 2-butanone, 4-methyl-2-  
 pentanone, *tert*-butyl methyl ether, 2-propanol, ~~and ethanol~~ and ~~or~~ a mixture of any of these  
 solvents.

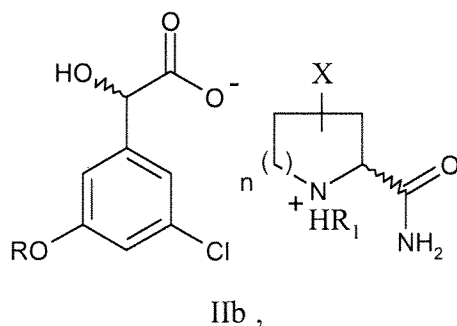
Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The process according to claim 1 any of~~  
~~claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the solvent ~~used~~ is ethyl acetate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The process according to A process, according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the mixture is heated (~~preferably to reflux~~) before cooling and filtering off ~~of the respective (R)/(D) or (S)/(L) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The process according to A process, according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 6,~~ wherein the acid:base molar ratio is 1:0.4-0.7.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The process according to A process, according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 3,~~ wherein ~~to obtain further resolved mandelic acid cyclic amide salt,~~  
 the mandelic acid cyclic amide salt is separated,  
 the mother liquors are racemised and  
 the process ~~repeated at least once~~ repeated, at least once, to obtain further resolved mandelic acid cyclic amide salt.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A (R)/(D) or (S)/(L) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt having the formula **I Ib** formula ~~I Ib~~;



wherein ~~Wherein~~

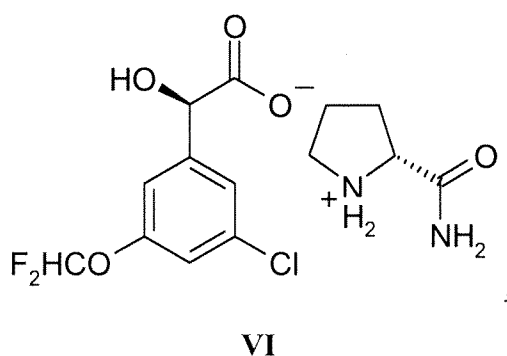
**R** is selected from CHF<sub>2</sub>, H, C<sub>1-6</sub> ~~alkyl~~ Alkyl, CH<sub>2</sub>F, CHCl<sub>2</sub> and CClF<sub>2</sub>; ~~and~~

~~wherein~~ **n** is 0, 1 or 2;

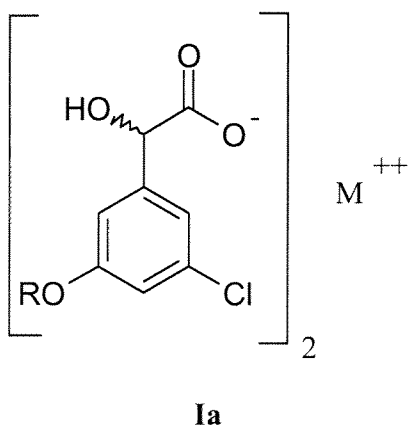
**R<sub>1</sub>** is H or C<sub>1-6</sub> ~~alkyl~~**Alkyl** and

**X** is H, halo or C<sub>1-6</sub> ~~alkyl~~**Alkyl**.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The A-(R)/(D) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt according to claim 9, which is of formula VI~~ mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt according to claim 9, which is of formula VI;



Claim 11 (currently amended): A metal salt of a mandelic acid ~~derivative of formula Ia~~ derivative of formula Ia ~~formula Ia~~;



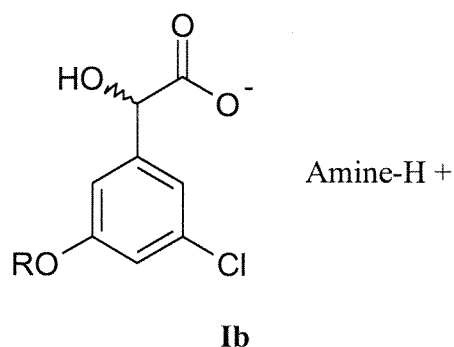
wherein

R is selected from CHF<sub>2</sub>, H, C<sub>1-6</sub> ~~alkyl~~**Alkyl**, CH<sub>2</sub>F, CHCl<sub>2</sub> and CClF<sub>2</sub>; and

~~wherein the metal ion M is a metal ion selected from calcium, zinc and or magnesium.~~

Claim 12 (currently amended): The A-metal salt, according to claim 11, wherein the mandelic acid derivative of formula **Ia** is the (R)-mandelic acid or the (S)-mandelic acid derivative, preferably the (R)-mandelic acid.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An amine salt of a mandelic acid derivative of formula **Ib** ~~formula Ib~~;



wherein

**R** is selected from CHF<sub>2</sub>, H, C<sub>1-6</sub> ~~alkyl~~Alkyl, CH<sub>2</sub>F, CHCl<sub>2</sub> and CCIF<sub>2</sub>; and

~~wherein~~ the amine is selected from triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine and ~~or~~ dicyclohexylamine.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The An-amine salt according to ~~salt, according to~~ claim 10, wherein

the mandelic acid derivative of formula **Ib** is the (R)- or (S)-mandelic acid, and

~~wherein~~ the amine is selected from triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine and ~~or~~ 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The A-amine salt according to salt, according to claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the mandelic acid derivative of formula **Ib** is the (*R*)- mandelic acid, and the amine is triethanolamine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The A-salt according to any one of claims 9, 11 and 13 to 15 wherein the mandelic acid is (*R*)-3-chloro,5-difluoro-methoxy mandelic acid ((*2R*)-[3-chloro-5-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-(hydroxy)acetic acid).